

~~of the edge~~ adjacent edge of the substrate is defined as a distance that the end of the liquid film reaches the end of the substrate by flow.

18. (Withdrawn) A liquid film forming method of dropping a liquid adjusted to be spread into a give amount on a substrate to be processed from a dropping nozzle or dropping nozzles of a dropping unit onto the substrate, and then moving the dropping unit and the substrate relatively while keeping the dropped liquid on the substrate, so as to form a liquid film on the substrate,

wherein the relative movement of the dropping unit and the substrate is composed of straight movement along a file direction in which the dropping unit passes from one end side of the substrate through an upper space of the substrate to the other end side of the substrate, and movement along a rank direction outside the substrate, or is composed of spiral movement in which the dropping unit goes from the substantial center of the substrate to the periphery thereof or from the periphery of the substrate to the substantial center thereof, and

the thickness of the liquid film is decided in the manner that the liquid film formed on the substrate flows to an extent which is substantially decided by gravitation applied to the liquid film.

19. (Withdrawn) The liquid film forming method according to claim 18, wherein the thickness of the liquid film is set to 20 μm or less.

20. (Withdrawn) The liquid film forming method according to claim 11, wherein the relative movement of the dropping ~~[[until]]~~ unit and the substrate is composed of straight movement along a file direction in which the dropping unit passes from one end side of the substrate through an upper space of the substrate to the other end side of the substrate, and movement along a rank direction perpendicular to the file direction outside the substrate.

21. (Withdrawn) The liquid film forming method according to claim 11, wherein the relative movement of the dropping ~~[[until]]~~ unit and the substrate is composed of spiral movement in which the dropping unit goes from the substantial center of the substrate to the periphery thereof or from the periphery of the substrate to the substantial center thereof.

22. (Withdrawn) The liquid film forming method according to claim 11, wherein the dropping a liquid is performed by using a capillary phenomenon.

23. (Withdrawn) The liquid forming method according to claim 11, wherein the thickness of the liquid film is decided in the manner that the liquid film formed on the substrate flows to an extent which is substantially decided by gravitation applied to the liquid film.

24. (Withdrawn) The liquid film forming method according to claim 23, wherein the thickness of the liquid film is set to 20 μm or less.